twenty-nine years, who had been bleeding for months and was extremely anemic; she was entirely cured of the excessive hemorrhage, and subsequently became pregnant and went to term, being delivered of a healthy child. This pregnancy occurred within four months after the operation, that is, before the uterine scar could have become consolidated, and yet no ill effects followed. Bonney believes that the risk of this operation is certainly not greater than that of hysterectomy; that the uterine wall in these cases is not itself necessarily very abnormal. and that, therefore, it is not contraindicated to leave a portion of it behind; that the operation is a legitimate alternative to hysterectomy, and is certainly to be preferred in the case of young women anxious to have children.

DERMATOLOGY

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D.,
EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

MILTON B. HARTZELL, M.D.,
PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Starch Paste as a Vehicle in the Treatment of Scabies.—YAMADA (*Dermat. Ztschr.*, 1910, xvii, Heft 4), in the treatment of scabies, employs a paste made of rice flour containing 30 per cent. of sulphur. This rice paste is prepared by mixing 40 to 45 grams of rice meal with $\frac{1}{4}$ liter of water and, in order to prevent fermentation, 2.5 grams of salicylic acid or 5 grams of benzoic acid. This paste of rice and sulphur is employed in the same manner as the ointments commonly used, being rubbed in once a day for two to five days, the patient neither bathing nor changing his underwear during this time. The author has treated 44 cases in this manner, and has never seen relapses; and the duration of the treatment was in most cases shorter than with the usual methods.

Hot Air in Dermatological Therapeutics.—RAVAUT (*Annales. d. dermat. et de. syphil.*, 1910, No. 3) reports the results which he has obtained in various affections of the skin treated by hot air. He employed the apparatus constructed by Gaiffe, in which air heated by an electric current to a temperature varying from 60° to 80° C. is projected through variously sized and shaped tips upon the skin. The hot air thus obtained is employed for various purposes: At a temperature not exceeding 80° an active hyperemia of the parts treated is produced; at an elevated temperature cauterization and carbonization of the tissues to a varying depth results. As complete immobility of the patient is necessary to obtain the best results, and as the pain is considerable, the author advises general anesthesia. Nevus, lupus, cutaneous tuberculosis, epithelioma, and leukoplakia are some of the more important affections in which this method of treatment was employed with more or less success, the air being used at a high temperature for its cauterant effects. The hot air treatment was likewise employed to produce hyperemia in torpid ulcers; and cicatrization was more rapid in these cases than in those treated by the usual methods.

Bacteriology and Pathological Anatomy of Leprosy.—J. M. H. MACLEOD (*Brit. Jour. of Dermatology*, October, 1909) states that the researches of the last twelve years have only more firmly established the lepra-bacillus of Hansen as the specific cause of leprosy. During the last decade numerous attempts have been made to cultivate the bacillus, but no medium has been discovered on which it will invariably grow. It has not been proved that the bacillus is present and can lead a saprophytic existence on decayed organic matter, such as decomposed fish, meat, rice, or in the soil. This fact alone, the author thinks, is sufficient to negative the theory that the disease may result from the eating of decayed fish, decayed pork, and the like, and until the lepra bacillus has been found to exist in decomposed fish, "the fish theory of leprosy cannot be regarded as other than an hypothesis, which is unsupported by scientific fact." Numerous inoculation experiments made upon different animals have invariably given negative results. It would seem most probable that the lepra bacillus may gain entrance in various ways, the nasal and upper respiratory tracts being probably the most common, corroborated by the frequency with which nasal symptoms form one of the earliest manifestations of the disease. The bacilli are widely distributed throughout certain tissues of the body, but are absent from the muscles, bones, and joints. In the skin lepra bacilli have been confined as a rule to the corium, occasionally being found in the deeper layer of the epidermis, but it is doubtful if they exist in the sebaceous glands, as they have an aversion to fat. The bacilli may affect the nerves in their entire course, but observers are not of one mind as to the mode of invasion, especially whether the nerve involvement occurs first in the finer endings in the skin and ascends, or is a descending process, the result of a general infection.

Studies in the Metabolism of Certain Skin Diseases.—JOHNSTON and SCHWARTZ (*New York Med. Jour.*, March 13, 20, 27, 1910), in a series of elaborate studies undertaken for the purpose of demonstrating, if possible, by examination of the urine, some relation between disordered metabolism and certain inflammatory diseases of the skin, and for the purpose of discovering some means of preventing relapses in these diseases, conclude that none of the urinary compounds dealt with in these studies are likely to have any specific causal relation to the diseases considered. Since indicanuria, for example, occurs independently of lesions upon the skin and in all the forms of inflammation considered, this condition is not likely to have any direct causal relation to diseases of the skin. In view of the fact that disturbance in the nitrogen partition is most common in the prodromal period, and that it is associated with other symptoms indicative of intoxication, and that the figures return to the normal coincidently with improvement, the authors regard the conclusion justifiable that this change and the lesions upon the skin are the effects of a common cause which at the present time is not discoverable. These studies suggested nothing especially new in the way of treatment. Regulation of the diet is regarded as of the first importance, especially as to the taking of proteids, which should be limited, or, in acute cases, even totally prohibited. Green fruit and vegetables are especially indicated. Medicinal treatment should consist of elimination by the bowels, kidneys, and skin. Saline cathartics with occasional doses of mercurials are better than antiseptics in intestinal putrefaction. Elimination by the kidney may be secured by the administration of large quantities of water alone, or saline diuretics may be used. The administration of thyroid or nucleoproteids of the thyroid, was found useful in prurigo and certain cases of dermatitis herpetiformis.

The Role of Staphylococci in Eczema.—BRUCK and HIDAKA (*Archiv f. Dermat. u. Syphilis*, 1910, x, Heft 1 to 3), in a series of investigations undertaken with the view of learning whether such biological changes in the blood serum of eczema patients could be demonstrated as would permit the conclusion that staphylococci had a share in the eczematous process, found that these organisms could give rise, in eczema, to biological reactions which were manifest as an increase in the agglutinin and antilysin content of the blood. They found, moreover, that the duration and severity of the eczema were not without influence upon the magnitude of this antibody production. Although it does not follow from the demonstration of these facts that the staphylococci or their toxins are the exciters of eczema, they believe that the view that these microorganisms play a harmless role in this disease must be given up.

Prurigo and the Papule with the Urticarial Basis.—O. H. HOLDER (*Jour. of Cutaneous Diseases*, April, 1911) considers this in its several aspects, calling attention to Riehl's (of Vienna) views, who was the first to point out the true nature of the papule and that it was urticarial, and hence produced by a rapidly forming edema of the cutis, and that throughout the evolution of the papule its contents were and remained essentially fluid; owing to the absence of redness the term "pale papule" was applied to it. Dr. Holder goes into the subject of the pathology at some length, and concludes that he would endorse the views of those who believe that the papules are solely due to traumatism of the skin, and that they should be (as they now are at times) classified under the term papular urticaria.

The Surgical Treatment of Cutaneous Malignant Growths.—J. C. BLOODGOOD (*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, 1910, lv, 1615) bases his observations upon over 1000 cases, and of these, 65 were malignant pigmented moles, 45 sarcoma of the derma, and 812 epithelial tumors of the skin and mucous membranes. Of the malignant pigmented moles, not one was to be considered as a definitely cured case, but of 75 additional cases of benign disease there was no recurrence of internal metastasis. Incisions wide of the diseases are strongly advised. The epithelial tumors were classified according to their pathology into c. basocellulare, c. cubocellulare, and c. spinocellulare. The basic type is the least malignant of these; the squamous or spindle cell variety is the most malignant. Incomplete incision with the knife is more dangerous than failure to cure by other methods of treatment.